



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2006

FACT SHEET

MAYOR ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Commission will collaborate with the City, law enforcement, social service agencies and the public to alleviate gang activity in San Diego

Mayor Sanders today announced candidates for the City's first-ever Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The nominees will be confirmed by the City Council at a future date. Commission members will develop immediate recommendations and a long-term strategic plan that reflects the Mayor's and City Council vision to ensure public safety.

THE COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION WILL:

- Develop a strategic plan on gang prevention and intervention that reflects coordinated and collaborative efforts of the institutions represented on the Commission (employment, education, social services, faith-based, community and government) and other gang-related agencies, programs, and institutions.
- Identify best practices from throughout the nation and collect relevant data from SANDAG, existing community-based organizations, schools, law enforcement and citizen groups to provide the Mayor and Council with information to develop and implement policies that address gang prevention and intervention. This assessment process will help identify critical issues and programs that need to be a priority focus of the Commission's work.
- Conduct a Listening Tour that will involve communities in the City. The purpose of the tour is to gather information directly from the communities about the gang problems they are experiencing and define the complexities of urban gang life in various communities. This will include multiple youth-led discussions as well as meetings with organizations that have ideas they want to share with the Commissioners.

Once in place, the Commission will:

- Meet regularly at both a central location and at locations throughout the city
- Make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods
- Identify local, state and federal funding sources
- Identify best practices
- Identify gang prevention solutions that are part of a more comprehensive plan, and do not require funding, i.e. truancy sweeps
- Form subcommittees to analyze critical issues of gang involvement
- Network with boards, agencies and community residents on gang related issues

WHO ARE THE 17 CANDIDATES AND WHAT POSITION DO THEY FILL?

The 17 candidates for the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention were chosen to fill the following categories:

- One member from each of the eight council districts (chosen by the Mayor from two nominees submitted by each councilmember to represent his or her district)
 - Council District 1: *Marilyn Stewart*
 - Council District 2: *Michael Sise, M.D.*
 - Council District 3: *Elias Vazquez*
 - Council District 4: *Harry Cooper Jr.*
 - Council District 5: *Alicia DeLeon Torres*
 - Council District 6: *Rosemary Ortega*
 - Council District 7: *Eugene Johnson*
 - Council District 8: *Christopher Yanov*
- One at-large member: *Vincent Iaria*
- One member from the field of K-12 education: *Carl Cohn, PhD*
- One member from a community organization working on gang issues: *Benita Page*
- One member from the field of law enforcement: *Police Chief William Lansdowne*
- One member from the field of public health: *Steve Eldred*
- One member from the field of social services: *Kevin Henderson*
- One member from the San Diego Association of Governments: *Gary Gallegos*
- One member from the San Diego Workforce Partnership: *Larry Fitch*
- One member who is a reformed gang member: *Conrad Harris*

WHO SERVES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION?

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood serves as the Executive Director of the commission and was appointed to her post by Mayor Sanders in July 2006. She has spent over 15 years working with at-risk youth in the San Diego community, and as Executive Director will facilitate the Commission's work in defining policy issues related to gang prevention and intervention. Ms. Sharpe-Underwood received her BS from New York University, her Masters from Columbia School of Journalism and an MBA from San Diego State University.